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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

APRIL 7th, 1977, ISSUE No. 12

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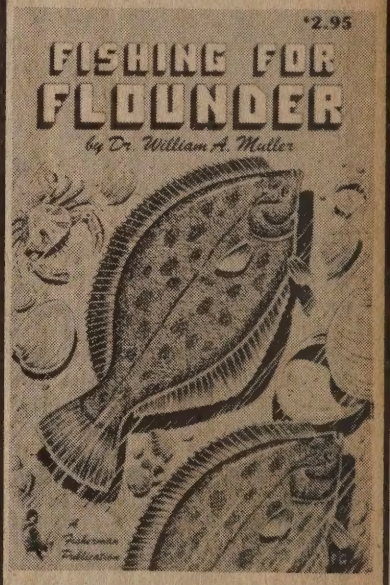

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 12 APRIL 7th, 1977

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About the Cover—

Four giant cod in the 40 pound class hang from the rails of the new "Marlin IV". Cod action has picked up at Montauk while flounder are still slow around the Island. See the fishing reports beginning on pg. 24.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER

Ken Walsh — NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Rich Reina Jr. — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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Drew Smagala — CIRCULATION MANAGER

Dr. William A. Muller — ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITOR

Fred Guardineer — STAFF ARTIST

Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR

Tim Coleman — CONN./R.I. EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED LAUNCHING RAMPS
Or: Something's Rotten In Albany...

Did you ever wonder why there aren't more public launching ramps provided by New York State for small boats on Long Island? No one could possibly argue that the need for more launching facilities exists—just look at all the marinas around the Island that charge between $3 and $6 for a one-time use of their private ramps, which invariably have a line of anglers waiting to launch their boats on the weekend. Many of the towns also have launch ramps that they limit to residents only, obstensibly to keep the crowds down, or even better yet charging a heavy fee to non-residents that didn't have the common sense to buy a house in a town that had a decent ramp to launch a boat. So there is little doubt that the need for more public launching facilities does indeed exist.

So why aren't there more, you may ask—just as we have. The answer invariably comes back on an economic level...witness the reply of regional director Donald Middleton of the State Department of Environmental Conservation when asked in a Newsday interview about the newly opened Laurel Lake in Southold. He said that in a "few years" the D.E.C. hopes to build an access road and a boat launching ramp for the lake. He said that "no funds" are now available for such a project. But meanwhile, he assured anglers that a small boat could be carried through the woods to the water...

Poppycock. While doing a little investigate work to combat the latest bill introduced in Albany by our friendly upstate legislators seeking to impose a Salt Water Fishing License on us poor downstaters, because WE were spending THEIR money collected from Fresh Water and Hunting Licenses on marine projects, we discovered a little reverse psychology being played on us. It is WE, the salt water angler, that is having his money being spent by THEM!!! By attacking, they always had us on the defensive. Okay, now it's time for the upstaters to be on the defensive for a change—let's hear what kind of answers they manage to come up with.

The first call was to the office of State Sen. Bernard Smith of Huntington. The question was: where does all that money go that is collected from salt water anglers from their boat registration fees and the taxes on the gasoline, oil and diesel fuel our boats consume? After a few hours of research, one of the Senator's aides found the answer: the money goes into a special account known as the "Outdoor Recreation Development Account." What is this special account used for? "For the payment of...any indebtedness incurred by the state...from the sale of bonds sold pursuant to the park and recreation land acquisition act. Any monies in the account not required for debt service...shall be available...for projects undertaken pursuant to article eleven of the navigation law." (State Finance Law, State Funds, section 82, page 124, dated May 22, 1969.)

For the upstate legislators information, Article II of the State Navigation Law, "Improvement and Preservation of Waterways," states under section 140, definitions: "(e) State Marine Facility. A harbor or navigational improvement which is designed to enhance recreational boating, a facility appurtenant or incidental thereto, a facility appurtenant or incidental to a harbor of refuge, a storm alert system or components thereof, navigational aides, and any other similar capital improvement designed primarily to enhance recreational boating, which is constructed or improved by the department."

So there it was, in black and white: monies collected from taxes on marine gas and from motorboat registration fees could be spent on a wide variety of marine facilities, INCLUDING launching ramps. But there was a Catch-22 written in: Only "monies not required for debt service" would be used. Based on the five public launching ramps on Long Island (Lake Ronkonkoma, Freeport, Hechscher Park, South Jamesport and Greenport) the obvious answer would be that there just wasn't any money left over for launching ramps. But we decided to play a hunch, and started asking more annoying questions that give politicians heartburn. Questions like: "Long Island has only five state launch ramp facilities. How many does upstate New York have?"

After bouncing around on the telephone with various state departments for a couple of hours, we finally located someone in the State Parks & Recreation Office that was willing to answer a simple question without passing the buck. The phone conversation between The Fisherman (L.I.F.) and the Parks & Recreation Office (P & R Office) went something like this:

L.I.F.: "How many state launching ramps are located on Long Island?"

P&R Office: "Five."

L.I.F.: "Very good. Now, how many state launch ramps are located upstate on fresh water lakes, rivers, etc.?

P&R Office: "Gee...can I send you a list?"

L.I.F.: "No, that's all right...just count them for us."

P&R Office: "Okay, but I'll have to put you on hold for a minute, okay?"

L.I.F.: "Holding."

After a solid two minutes of holding, I started to get nervous. My God, I

Continued on page 38.

FISH TAILES

Fish Tailes gives the readers of *The Long Island Fisherman* an opportunity to share their favorite "fish story" with others. An unusual experience, oddball fishing technique, new method for catching the big ones—whatever! Fact or fantasy, it's for the readers to decide...but only the author knows for sure!

Readers are invited to send in their contributions to *Fish Tailes,* P. O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Stories should be limited to the 300 to 500 word range, typewritten and double-spaced whenever possible. The winning *Fish Tailes* will be chosen by the staff of The Fisherman each month, and published in L.I.F. the first issue of each month. Anglers sending in winning entries will receive $20 of fishing tackle and other junk—so send in your *Fish Tailes* today!

This month's winning FISH TAILES was submitted by Jean Kreiling of Brooklyn, who wins the $20 worth of fishing tackle and other junk. Congratulations, Jean!

THE ULTIMATE FISHING SECRET

When John Skeffy struck his head on a tackle box and died, the newspapers described it as an accident. He had been a great fisherman, possibly the world's best and his death produced a flood of eulogies in all the sports magazines. John had been much too secretive to be very popular, but he had racked up an impressive string of world records. He had never been a wealthy man.

John usually fished alone, but occasionally he'd take a friend, or even a paying customer—some celebrity or other who thought that John would show him the ropes. It was a vain hope. John inevitably caught the biggest fish and he never divulged any secrets that weren't standard knowledge to the average good fisherman. John took me fishing more than once, because I think he knew I wasn't after his secret—at least, he thought I wasn't, which brings me to the point of this story. John knew something no one else knew. Having watched him in action, I feel certain he put something on his lures, which were all standard, before he cast them out. I used to think it was a scent of some kind. How else could he have gotten it on so quickly without the usual tying and cutting operation? I now believe it was something else—something tiny that he looped or clamped on with an imperceptible movement and removed just as deftly after catching a fish. He was certainly paranoid about letting anyone help him land a fish.

When I read the news of his death in august while fishing with the famous actor, Mr. X, I remembered that John had fished with Mr. X before. He called and told me about him.

"Damned if he wasn't mad as a hooked blue that he couldn't figure out how I did it," John chortled. "I told him it was skill—just skill and good luck. He was so mad I told him it would cost him $5,000 to get me to take him fishing again."

Well, John is dead, having slipped and struck his head on a tackle box while fishing with Mr. X off Montauk. Shortly afterwards, Mr. X caught the worlds biggest striper and last week, I read he took a record salmon ...

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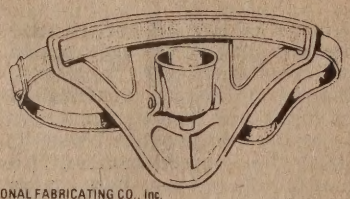
PENN REELS

The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:
There was no winner this week, so next week's winner shall receive $30 instead of the usual $10, plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

553 PCU

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet		

FREEPORT Aloma II

Pass It On...

APPOINTMENT OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES AND CONSERVATIONAL SPECIALIST

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Regional Director, William G. Gordon, announced today the appointment of Bruce L. Freeman to a newly-created position. Mr. Freeman will plan, develop and implement marine recreational fisheries programs for the Northeast Region, and serve as the major focal point for recreational interests. He will establish communication with the public, academic institutions, state fisheries agencies, research personnel within NMFS and other agencies, and other marine recreational interests. A prime aspect of his work will be to advise the Regional Director in matters that may affect marine recreational fisheries programs and assist the Regional Fishery Management Councils in the assessment of recreational components of management plans being developed under our new extended jurisdiction law.

Mr. Freeman comes to the Gloucester, Massachusetts office from the NMFS Sandy Hook Laboratory in Highlands, New Jersey. During the past 11 years while at Sandy Hook as a research biologist, he has been involved in marine game fish research projects such as natural history studies and migrations of bluefish, striped bass, tilefish, and bluefin tuna. He has also initiated two, large-scale recreational fishing surveys; one along Maryland's ocean shore, and the other in New Jersey. He has recently published, with L. A. Walford, a series of eight folios entitled, "Anglers' Guide to the United States Atlantic Coast, Fish, Fishing Grounds, and Fishing Facilities." Together the folios cover the East Coast from Maine to Florida and from the innermost reaches of the estuarine zone seaward to the edge of the Continental Shelf.

For more information, contact the Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, telephone: AC 617-281-3600.

BOATING

Registration for a comprehensive course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will commence April 26, 1977, 7:30 P.M., at the South Shore High School, Room 432, 6565 Flatlands Ave., at Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. This course is a must for both the new boater and for those who want to enrich their boating pleasure. It is sponsored by Flotilla 11-2 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

CLUB NEWS

MASPETH ANGLERS FISHING CLUB

The 20 members of the newly formed Maspeth Anglers Fishing Club are proud to announce the election of club officers.
Commodore: P. Russo
Vice-Commodore: W. Goodwin
Secretary: J. Lutzel
Treasurer: F. Spacek

The members of the club formulated a series of By-Laws aimed at good fishing, good companionship and sound ecology. Abuse of our natural waterways will not be tolerated.

SURF 'N SEA ANGLERS

The Surf and Sea Anglers of Queens has just held its 1977 officers election:
Joseph Esposito - President
Richard McAllister - Vice President
Ronald Fede - Secretary
Tony Micko - Treasurer

The club is looking for new members. Anyone interested, please contact one of the following:
Joseph Esposito - 212-441-6999.
Ronald Fede - 516-781-4155 after 8 P.M.
Tony Micko - 212-728-2296.

The club has been in existence for over three years and has good credentials behind it.

NEW FISHING CLUB FOR WEST HEMPSTEAD-FRANKLIN SQUARE AREA

This is to announce the organization of a new Fishing Club in the West Hempstead-Franklin Square area. The name of the club is the "High & Dry Fishing Club." Election of officers was held at the initial meeting. The following members were elected:
President - Dan Hoffman
Vice Pres. - Steve Stravinskas
Secretary - Pete McCloat
Treasurer - Jeff Hasselbring

The Club plans to hold its first fishing contest Memorial Day weekend at Shelter Island and will be concentrating on weakfish.

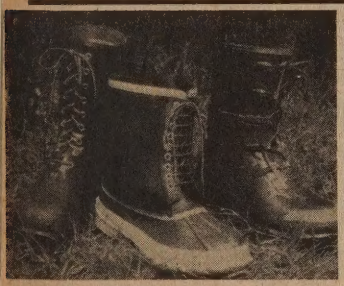
I hope that you will be able to include an item about the Club in your Club News, as all members subscribe to your magazine.

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT-FISHERMEN'S CLUB

The next meeting of the North Brookhaven Sportfishermen's Club will be held Monday night, April 11th, at 8:00 P.M., in Shoreham Recreation Center, Rte. 25A in Shoreham, (1/8 mile east of Wm. Floyd Pkwy). Guest speaker will be Guy D'Angelo of Center Moriches, who will present a color slide show on whale tagging. He is Atlantic Correspondent of the American Cepacean Society. All Island sportsfishermen are invited to attend. Admission is always free. For more info, residents may call 744-6260.

WANTS TO JOIN CLUB IN HAMPTONS

Ron Rosenberg is interested in joining a fishing club located near Westhampton Beach, L. I. Information may be addressed to: **Ron Rosenberg, 1"B" Ramsey Rd., Great Neck, N.Y. 11023.**



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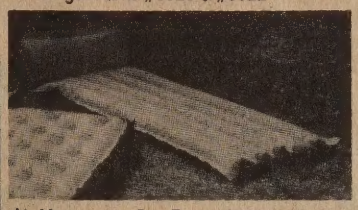

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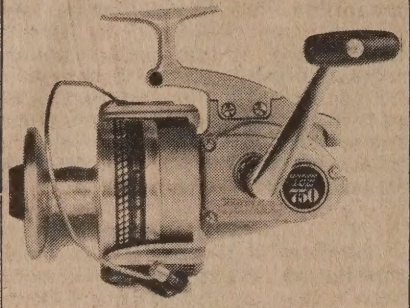

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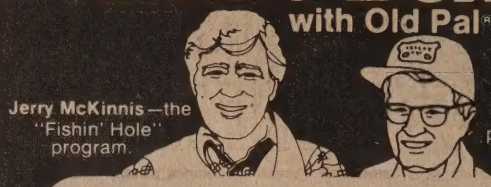

Jerry McKinnis—the "Fishin' Hole" program.

Virgil Ward—the "Championship Fishing" program.

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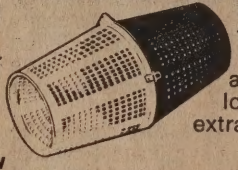

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

It's unlikely that any party boat skippers read the "Federal Register." If they did, their wives would have been passing the smelling salts after they'd laid eyes on "Emergency Regulations—Haddock, Cod, Yellowtail Flounder."

Scheduled for publication March 14, these emergency regulations follow closely the conditions proposed in the draft plan for these species, which were discussed at many public meetings held in the area from Delaware to Maine. However, while glancing through these seemingly innocuous regulations at the March 9th—10th Mid-Atlantic Council meeting (held in Ocean City, Maryland), I came across some new language that could have drastically affected sport fishing for cod. Tacked into the end of the "Landing Restrictions" section was the following: "Landing of cod from recreational boats shall be limited to 100 pounds per person, or 1000 pounds per boat per trip, whichever is greater." Especially in view of what codfishing has been like in recent years, most anglers could live comfortably with these restrictions. On the other hand, the large party boats that specialize in long, costly trips to far offshore wrecks would find cutomers hard to come by if they were forced to stop fishing after catching just three or four big cod.

Under "Licensing Provisions," the regulations state "Any person or vessel desiring to: (1) Fish for any haddock, cod or yellowtail flounder within the FCZ, or (2) transport, or deliver for sale, any haddock, cod or yellowtail flounder taken within the FCZ must obtain a license for that purpose." The license, obtained through the National Marine Fisheries Service, would be free. Nevertheless, this constitutes a "backdoor" approach to licensing saltwater anglers and would result in a huge bureaucratic logjam at NMFS. While the intent of these regulations is probably the praiseworthy one of trying to obtain adequate recreational fishing statistics, the only result would be the virtual destruction of other NMFS activities, as thousands of licenses were issued. A strict reading of the regulations indicates that every angler on a party boat must be licensed, as well as the vessel!

When I brought this matter up, the Council voted to recommend changing the language to encompass only commercial fishing. I still objected to this, as any fisherman selling a cod, haddock, or yellowtail flounder would still be covered. This would still create an administrative problem (virtually every captain and mate, and many other rod and reel fishermen, sell their catches from time to time) and was basically unfair, due to the time factor. Draggers already have licenses issued under ICNAF regulations and NMFS would recognize those.

Fortunately, Bill Gordon, NE Director of NMFS, agreed that these emergency regulations couldn't be put into effect. Though it was too late to stop them from being published in the "Federal Register," Bill promised that NMFS would put out a special notice indicating that these items would not be enforced.

My greatest objection to the sections covering recreational fishing wasn't as much to the substance, as to the lack of notice to the public. I attended three of the four public meetings held in the Mid-Atlantic area—Dover, Pt. Pleasant and Southampton. Not only was there no mention of such regulations in the draft plan, but nothing of the sort was brought up verbally at the time. These requirements constitute a major change, and to institute them via emergency regulations (without public hearings) would be blatantly undemocratic. There may well be a case for licensing and catch restrictions on the recreational fishery, but we'll fight to see that the public has its say before any such action is taken!

Probably the prime reason for the ill-conceived recreational requirements is the legitimate need for logbook information from party and charter boat captains. In order to get a handle on what recreational anglers are catching, it's necessary to obtain an historical record of trip reports. It's in our own best interests that this information be provided on a continuing basis. Without a doubt, it will shortly be required in any case. All captains should keep accurate logbooks now and it would be most helpful if they could supply NMFS with any historic data they've been accumulating. This material could prove most important in the Council's efforts to protect and improve all American offshore fisheries.

****

Coast Guard fisheries law enforcement flight data provides a startling illustration of the effectiveness of the new 200 Mile Limit law. On February 23rd, Coast Guard planes spotted 128 foreign vessels fishing from Baltimore Canyon to Georges Bank. On March 3rd, there were only 47! Of those, only 18 of the 28 Soviet vessels were fishing—all apparently engaged in the hake fishery along the edges of the canyons from south of Montauk, east. There were also 10 Japanese ships and 9 Canadians. Since their permits hadn't yet been granted, the Spanish and Italian fleets were either in port, or had left the zone.

One Soviet vessel has been cited for fishing with mesh that is smaller than the regulations permit. Civil prosecution will follow. The unresolved dispute with Canada over who controls Georges Bank will probably stretch out for years. In the meantime, the two countries have agreed to continue traditional fisheries in each other's zones, under rules and regulations applicable to fishermen of both nations. However, the Councils will have to be alert to the possibility of new fisheries being started during this interim period, as the fleets might then be able to claim "historical rights" in future negotiation.

****

Estimates of foreign catches in our zone during January and February have been made by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Based on boardings made during that period, they indicate that the Soviets have already overfished their mackerel quota, and the Italians have exceeded their locigo squid allotment. The Soviets also appear to have taken very large quantities of butterfish as by-catch—a species for which they have no allotment. Preliminary reports from the foreign nations involved are starting to come in and frequently differ in great measure from the NMFS estimates. These figures will have to be reconciled, as catches for the first two months will be deducted from quotas remaining for the rest of the calendar year. Where one country has overfished already, other countries will suffer by having their quotas cut back. Preliminary reports put the mackerel catch so close to the yearly quota, that there may not be any fall season (October-December) for the foreigners at all.

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Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

EELS—
Anguilla Rostrata

The EEL STORY IS A WHO-DONE-IT! Tracking down the story of the life cycle of the eel represents one of the most exciting adventures in marine biology. Since eels are known to both fresh and salt water, most people in the 18th Century believed that there were two species. Yet eels studied from fresh water never were observed with ripened or developed six glands. Therefore, in earliest times people believed that eels spontaneously generated from mud.

HOWEVER, IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY IN ITALY several Italian scientists had observed that the large, mature eels migrated downstream, while the juveniles moved upstream.

IN 1856 A GERMAN SCIENTIST found a flat, transparent, fish-like eel. He named it Leptocephalus brevirostris and did **not** note any connection between this creature and eels.

IN THE EARLY 1900s, these larva were found to be very numerous in the open ocean. A Danish marine biologist, Johannes Schmidt undertook a comprehensive study of the distribution of the Leptocephalus in the open ocean. He made many samples at different depths over much of the North Atlantic Ocean. He found that these larval eels were not uniformly distributed in the ocean. He also discovered that as he sailed south, on a line towards the Sargasso Sea, the larva became smaller and smaller. The results of Schmidt's study prompted him to conclude that the adult eels spawned in the Sargasso Sea at about 200 fathoms.

IN SPITE OF THESE DIVERSE DISCOVERIES it remained until much later before scientists were able to piece together enough information to complete the puzzle. Even today, experts disagree on some points, as we shall see later in this discussion.

HOWEVER, THE BASIC STORY CAN BE TOLD! The eels spawn in the Sargasso Sea in late winter. Each female lays about ten to twenty million eggs! The larva hatch in the spring and begin to drift with the Gulf Stream towards the north. Now, the American eel spawns in the western Sargasso and the European eel spawns in the eastern Sargasso. Therefore, the Leptocephalus of the American eel will drift towards the North American coastline, while the larva of the European eel will drift towards Europe.

THE LARVA OF THE AMERICAN EEL MUST TRAVEL 1,000 miles! But that's a small journey compared to their European relatives, who must drift and swim 3,000 miles before they are home. The voyage takes the American eel about one year, and the European eel requires three times that many.

WHEN THE EELS APPROACH THE COASTLINE, they will begin to metamorphose, or change shape, into round bodied elvers three to four inches long. The females, which grow much larger, will swim upstream into fresh water if circumstances permit, while the males will remain in brackish water. Young eels tend to be yellowish-green, while the old-timers become almost black.

THE ADULT EELS WILL REMAIN IN OUR WATERS FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS. In the fall of their migratory year, the adult females will swim down to the sea and join with the males for the long trek to the Sargasso Sea. The eels may be migrating in very thick swarms, both when they move inshore and when they return to the deep ocean. It is at such times that game fish seek them out. During some fall seasons in our coastal waters, striped bass and bluefish become entranced by the abundant supply of eels. It is at such times that large catches of stripers and blues, including many big fish, are taken from Massachusetts to southern New Jersey on large black or red tubes and of course, live and rigged eels.

OFFSHORE SPECIES MAY ALSO FEAST ON THE BANQUET OF EELS! For this reason, trolled live eels or rigged dead ones are favorite baits for marlin, tuna, and the rest of the offshore tribe of giant game fish.

EELS AND SALMON SHARE THE SAME "DEATH WISH!" Well, not exactly, but both die after spawning. Whereas salmon migrate from the deep ocean into rivers and streams to spawn and then die (except the Atlantic salmon), eels migrate from rivers and shallow coastal tributaries to the deep ocean to spawn and then die.

SOMETIMES EELS BECOME LAND-LOCKED IN FRESH WATER! The eels that wander far inland through our rivers and streams sometimes become land-locked when changing geological and meteorological conditions block their access to the open sea. This happens quite frequently, not only to eels, but white perch as well. The eels which become trapped in fresh water are lighter in color and are often more yellowish or silvery.

IT IS IRONIC THAT ALTHOUGH NATURE SEEMS TO HAVE INTENDED that the eels only live about four years or so, they have the potential for an extremely long life span. Eels that have become trapped in fresh water establish themselves very nicely and may live for 50 years and even longer!

BUT THIS ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY! There is the question of the differences between the American and European variety, eels as human food, and how we fish for eels. Next week we'll look at these and other items about EELS.

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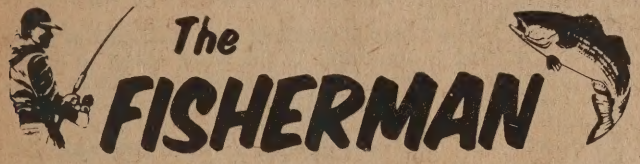

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Rules of the Roads: INTERNATIONAL

I must confess writing about Rules of the Road is a lot more difficult than lecturing about this subject. When the Vikings were sailing the oceans to discover new lands, the danger of collision was as unlikely as Russian trawlers respecting U.S. territorial waters. In 1889 maritime nations met in Washington, D.C. and the age of International Rules was born. The main purpose of the rules was for the prevention of collision. They only apply to the high seas. "Inland Rules" are territorial and are enforced by countries.

Before we go any further, lets define some of the terms that we will be using for this chapter.

Privileged Vessel—the vessel which has the right of way.

Burdened Vessel—the vessel which must keep clear of the privileged vessel.

Short Blast—(whistle) approximately one second duration.

Prolong Blast—(whistle) approximately 4-6 second duration.

Long Blast—(whistle) approximately 8-10 second duration.

Danger Zone—the area dead ahead to two points abaft the starboard beam.

Power Vessel—any vessel propelled by machinery, including sailing vessels under power and sail.

Danger Signal—not less than 5 short rapid blasts.

International Rules—defined as rules.

Inland Rules—defined as articles.

A brief review of Inland Rules might be helpful before we continue on. The privileged vessel has an obligation to maintain course and speed, but the burdened vessel must take positive action to stay clear of the privileged vessel. If danger of collision is imminent, then both vessels are burdened and must take positive action to steer clear of one another. One whistle blast answered by two, two whistle blasts answered by one is a cross signal. This action is never permitted. In fact, no vessel Inland-International may sound signals for the fun of it. Last, but not least, if either skipper is in doubt of the other's intention, then that skipper may sound the danger signal.

Surely the danger of collision on the high seas is quite remote when compared to the busy waters of bays, harbors, inlets, etc., but nevertheless collision can exist. The danger zone of your vessel is exactly the same on all waters. Whistle talk on the high seas takes on a different meaning as we will soon discover. Let us examine three situations—meeting, crossing, and overtaking.

POWER VESSEL MEETING (Figure #1]

Two power vessels are meeting end on (head to head) which could involve a risk of collision. In this case, neither vessel shall have the right of way and each vessel shall alter her course to starboard and pass on the port side of the other.

POWER VESSELS CROSSING (Figure #2]

When two power vessels are crossing which might involve a risk of collision, the vessel which has the other on her own starboard shall keep out of the way of the other. At night if you see the port (red(light of another vessel which is crossing ahead of you, then that vessel has the right-of-way.

POWER VESSEL OVERTAKING (Figure #3]

The overtaking vessel is burdened and the overtaken vessel is privileged as described in Inland Rules.

If you noticed that something was missing from these three situations, you are right. International rules state that there are no signals given, therefore, there are no signals returned. How do I know if I'm in Inland or International waters? The burden is on you; the skipper must know where he is, at all times. Should the skipper of the privileged vessel in the three situations described have any doubt as to the other vessel's intentions, then he may sound the danger signal—not less than five short, rapid blasts. This is an important point to remember. If two vessels are approaching each other, but can safely pass each other, then it is not necessary to alter your course. In the beginning of this chapter, I spoke of whistle talk on the high seas. That's exactly what it is. They are rudder signals signifying taking action to alter course. One blast on the whistle means "Altering my course to starboard." Two blasts on the whistle means "Altering my course to port." These signals are used when vessels are in sight of one another (Figure #4).

When a vessel sounds a one or two blast rudder signal, there is nothing in the rules for the other vessel to answer. Therefore, there shall not be an exchange of signals. Before this chapter comes to an end, a short review would be in order. The privileged vessel must maintain course and speed, but the burdened vessel must take positive action to stay clear of the privileged vessel. There are absolutely no whistle signals exchanged or given in the crossing, passing, and overtaking situation. The danger signal is reserved for the privileged vessel. Rudder signals are reserved for the vessel taking action to alter course and shall not be answered. This information has been obtained from C.G. 169, Aug. 1, 1972, Chapmans and Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual.

Many boatmen ask me the time honored question. Am I responsible for my actions? After all, I don't have a Coast Guard license, they say. Permit me to put this question in its proper perspective. Every man or woman who transports people for a financial gain, whether it be fishing, sightseeing or transportation, must have a Coast Guard license. These

(Continued on page 14.)

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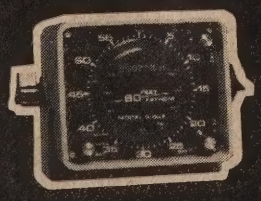

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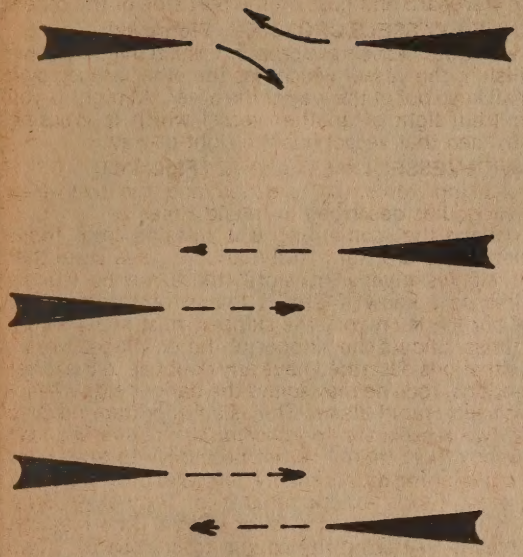
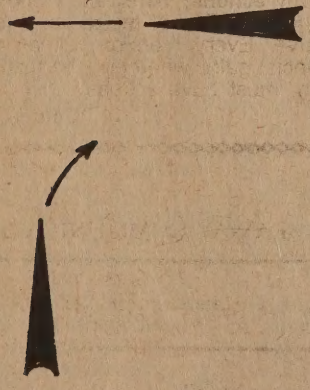


No whistle signals.

Power vessels meeting

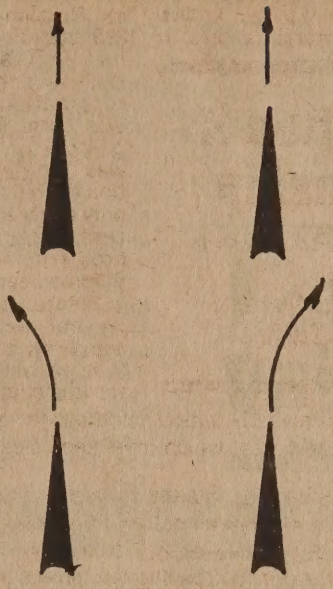
Figure # 1



No whistle signals

Power vessels crossing

Figure # 2



No whistle signals.

Power vessels overtaking

Figure # 3

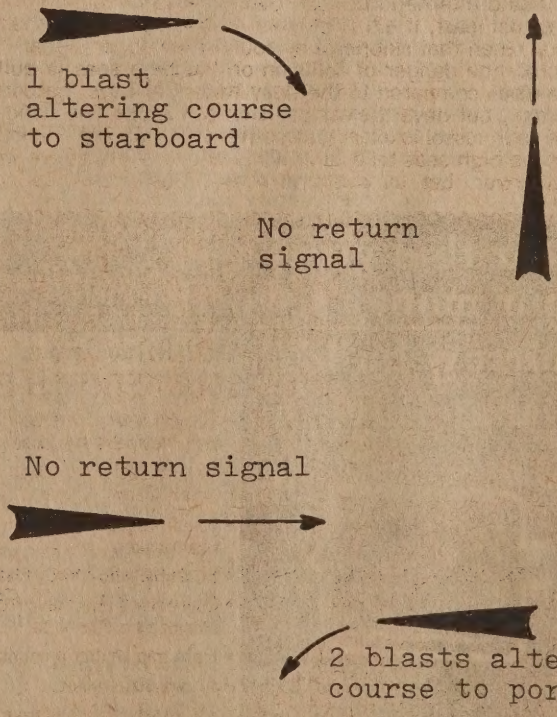


Figure # 4

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

An Open Letter to the Kids

Several months ago I received a letter from a Central Islip angler requesting precise information on areas where he could take his young nephew fishing: some spot that would produce a fish or two for a kid who was trying so hard to become a fisherman, but whose efforts were being rewarded with little luck. I answered as best I could, of course, with the sincere hope that my information would help.

I filed the letter, but found myself returning to it from time to time. There was something about that compassionate request which led me to the conclusion that there just had to be other kids with the same desire. And possibly having problems galore.

So, if there are any kids listening, this is for you.

First let me say that I know what it is to desperately want to catch fish. And I also know how you feel when all your efforts go in vain. I've been through that, too. Take it in stride, Son. It's all part of the learning process. There isn't one of us old-timers who can say with any degree of truth that the road to more and better fish hasn't been difficult. Who ever said it was? But once you've arrived at the end of that road, fishing does become easier—but never easy. It just seems that way.

Never become discouraged. And never lose sight of the fact that fishing is a challenge. You are pitting your intelligence against a dark, mysterious world; a world of which we humans know next to nothing. It often amazes me that we fishermen do so well with the little knowledge we have.

It won't take you long to realize that no two fishing trips are alike. Even if you didn't get a bite the last time you tried, there is always something there to learn. If you disbelieve this, your goal will be harder to reach. That master fisherman whom we all admire would be the first to admit that he never fails to learn something new everytime he wets his line. That's one of the reasons he enjoys his title. He has learned how to turn his poor fishing days into good ones. And so can you.

Having said that, I can hear your mutterings from here: "Oh, sure. Easy enough for you to say. You don't have trouble catching fish like me." Son, if that's what you believe, you are truly mistaken. I still have trouble getting fish in my bucket. Always did and always expect to. The only difference between we two as fishermen is that I have learned through experience what to do and what not to do under certain conditions. It's that simple. And who says you can't learn to do that?

I began fishing over a half century ago, and I still fondly recall the first fish I caught. It was a small bullhead taken from old Barnes' Pond in Brooklyn. And I didn't catch it the first time I tried. Nor the second or third—although the pond was loaded with fish.

But the important thing is that I did learn something everytime I failed—and I put it to use. Eventually success came my way—as it must for anyone who tries hard enough, no matter what the goal. Because I have learned how, I have little trouble catching bullheads now, but that is besides the point. What is important is that in those days I was fired with an all-consuming passion to catch fish—any fish. Many years have passed since that glorious day, but that state of mind hasn't lessened one bit. If you have that desire, and I'm quite sure you have else you wouldn't be reading this, it is impossible not to succeed.

I hope you like to study, for the pathway to record catches will become easier. The studying I refer to is not the often dreary, difficult to understand work of school books, but an alive, exciting method that will enable you to catch fish in the shortest possible time.

If your interest this spring is to catch flounders, for instance, don't hesitate to read and study all you can on the subject. Visit your public library, too. I'm sure you will find books telling you exactly how to catch flounders, or any fish you desire. Study and absorb what is written. You may be certain the information written therein is the straight goods.

This kid is sure to become a good fisherman.

Never forget that the author may have taken a lifetime to gather all the knowledge held between the covers of his book. And it is all yours, free for the taking. It's a golden opportunity and you should take full advantage of it.

Never hesitate to ask experienced fishermen the answer to questions that may stump you. I have never known a fellow fisherman who refused to help a kid. I have come to the conclusion that "there just ain't no such animal."

You may be sure that as a kid, when I wanted to learn all I could about fishing, I made quite a pest of myself—but that didn't faze me one bit. I always made it a point to latch onto any angler with a reputation for catching fish. I felt no guilt when pumping him dry with my many questions. Not one of these good-natured gentlemen ever told me to "get lost."

These fellows may appear to be rough and ready, but don't let that exterior fool you. They are pussycats in their hearts. They couldn't be any other way and still be fishermen.

Ask those questions. This is an important part of learning how to catch fish in the shortest possible time. If you hesitate to follow through on this, it is your fault—and your fault alone. Truly, pride goes before a fall.

It's a good idea, too, to team up with another kid whose interest is fishing and then plan your trips together; not only for companionship, but so that one may learn from the other. This brings out the competitive spirit which is needed to enjoy the sport to its fullest. Every fisherman competes in some way; if not with a fellow angler, then with the fish he seeks. But for most enjoyment, human competition must exist somewhere along the line. I have always felt that those fishermen who keep to themselves are missing out on a lot of fun, for by their very nature, fishermen are friendly. You will soon see what I mean as you become more involved in the sport.

Finally, always keep an open mind. Let it be like a sponge, absorbing everything. As you get deeper into the sport, don't hesitate to try out new ideas that may occur to you. After all, some of the methods you now use were at one time someone's brainstorm. Experimentation should always be your key word. Do these things faithfully and I know you will catch fish—and soon. Cheer up. You've picked a good sport.

Rules of the Roads: INTERNATIONAL

(Continued from page 12.)

mariners have passed a very rigid exam to qualify. What makes them different from the average boatman? Their license. These people have given of themselves to study and familiarize themselves with every aspect of boating. This however does not excuse the boatman without a license. The law applies to one and all who sit behind the wheel or tiller or a vessel. The key to being a knowledgeable skipper is study and practicing what you study.

JIGS, SQUIDS & CLAMS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

CAPT. JOHN SEKORA OF MONTAUK, PIONEER OF UMBRELLA RIGS AND TUBE LURES, HAS DESIGNED A NEW JIG FOR DRIFTING OR TROLLING *WHOLE BAITS WHICH WON'T SPIN.*

JIG SIZES ARE 4 OZ., 10 OZ., & 20 OZ. FOR LARGE BAITS SUCH AS WHOLE SQUID, HERRING, MACKEREL AND SNAPPER FOR CATCHING BLUES, BASS, WEAKS, COD AND POLLACK – AND ARE ADAPTABLE FOR EEL SKINS.

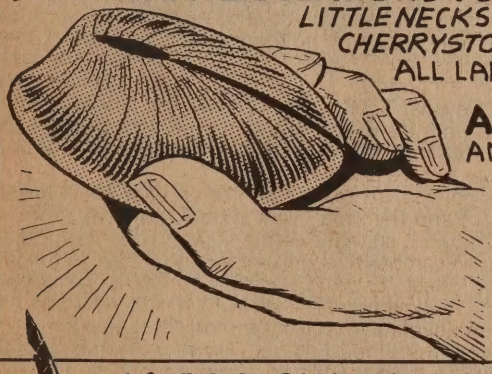
TESTED AND PROVED EFFECTIVE ON WRECKS AND MONTAUK AREAS SUCH AS THE "RACE" & CARTWRIGHT, USING WHOLE HERRING FOR BLUEFISH.

KEEPS WHOLE FISH BAITS FROM SPINNING. AVAILABLE AT LOCAL BAIT AND TACKLE STORES.

MILLIONS OF SQUID UP TO 2 FT. LONG PILED THEMSELVES UP ON THE BEACHES OF CAPE COD, MASS. AND WERE STACKED UP TWO AND THREE FEET DEEP ALONG THE SHORE. SCIENTISTS HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE MASS SUICIDE.

NEW CLAM REGULATIONS FOR NEW YORK STATE:

LITTLENECKS ... 1-1 1/16 INCHES THICK.
CHERRYSTONES TO 1 5/8 IN. THICK.
ALL LARGER SIZES ARE CHOWDERS.

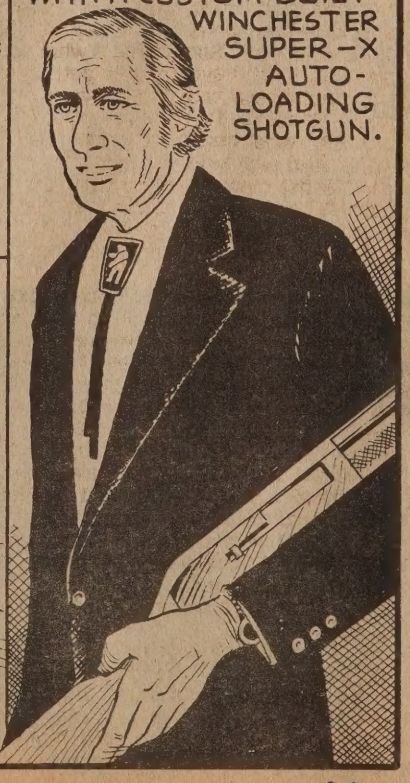


ALL BUSHELS WEIGH 70 LBS. AND CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

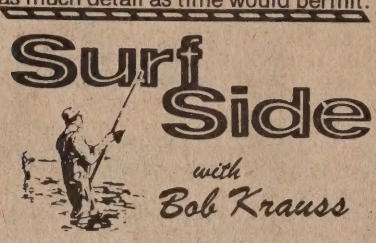
LITTLENECKS	800
MIDDLENECKS	600
TOP NECKS	400
CHERRYSTONE, SMALL	300
CHERRYSTONE, BIG	250
CHOWDERS, MEDIUM	200
CHOWDERS, BIG	150

14,000 SHARKS HAVE BEEN TAGGED TO DATE BY SPORTFISHERMEN FOR RESEARCH ON THE MANEATERS CONDUCTED BY BIOLOGIST JACK CASEY OF THE MARINE LABORATORY AT SANDY HOOK, NEW JERSEY- TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SHARK'S ROLE IN THE SEA.

FRED BEAR, RENOWNED BOW HUNTER AND CONSERVATIONIST, WAS NAMED OUTDOORSMAN OF THE YEAR 1976 BY THE NAT'L. SPORTING GOODS ASS'N. AND PRESENTED WITH A CUSTOM BUILT WINCHESTER SUPER-X AUTO-LOADING SHOTGUN.



ecently, I was asked by good friend and fishing buddy Bill "Doc" Muller (this publication's Associate Editor) to be his guest while he gave a lecture at the Metropolitan Striped Bass Conference. This lecture was sponsored by the Empire Striper Association. To help with the topic he was discussing in his lecture, I was asked to bring one of my surf rods, surf belt (complete with fish stringer, gaff, and knife) and, in addition, I was asked to bring my surf bag, complete with some homemade lures. Naturally, as with most lectures of this kind, when the program was officially over, a lot of people stayed to talk with the knowledgeable guest speakers and asked all sorts of questions which were answered in as much detail as time would permit. Approximately two weeks later I found out from Bill that he had received inquiries at the "Long Island Fisherman" regarding interest in my bag. At this time, prompted by the inquiries, I was asked to write this article.



CUSTOM MADE SURF BAG *Part One*

There were a number of reasons why I was motivated to make my own surf bag. The first was that for my kind of surf fishing, the present bags that are on the market don't hold a large enough swimming plug, like a large "Danny" swimmer or large "Gibbs" bottle plug and still be able to close the bag properly. The second reason was that the strap and related hardware are not made for comfort and long service. The strap is so narrow that after a couple of hours of fishing, it cuts into your shoulder like a dull knife, especially if you're carrying a lot of plugs. Another thing is the anchor points for fastening the shoulder strap on these bags are sewn too low on the sides of the bag, causing the bag to tip over very easily. When opened in a rough surf this could be a disaster. Of course, you may own a bag for four or five years, which is very good service, but how much use do you subject it to.

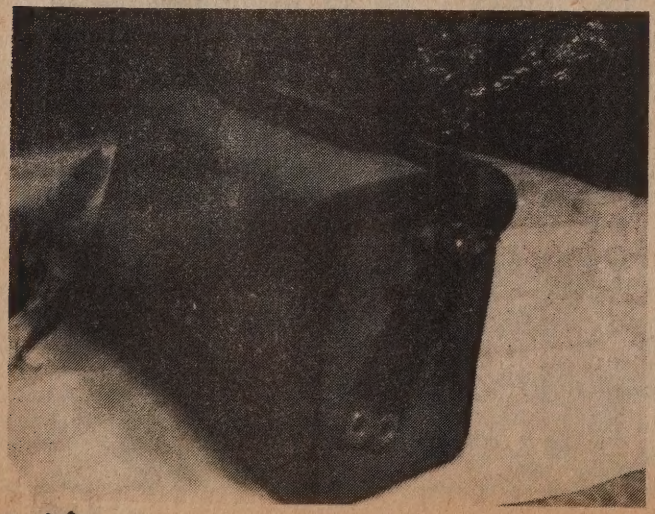
Do you go fishing on weekends now and then, or do you fish with it heavily for maybe 15 to 30 hours average a week (or more) like most serious surf fishermen, sometimes with the surf bag completely submerged under water when fishing with a wet suit? And finally, there is always a great feeling of pride and satisfaction when you make something yourself that is superior to similar commercial items now on the market, especially so, when it fills a very much needed requirement. Once having decided to make my own bag, I, of course, designed it to hold as large a plug as I might expect to use.

At this point, I would like to make it clear that I don't want to leave the impression that all surf fishermen should not buy the surf bags that are presently on the market and that they should all make their own bags. It isn't everyone who fishes long hours and subjects the bag to the elements, or uses large swimming plugs that weigh up to 4-1/2 ounces. The fisherman who fishes a few hours a week and uses plugs of a moderate size will be satisfied with the service of the bags now on the market. Another point to be made is that not everyone is handy, or has the facilities, time, or inclination to make their own bags.

Since it isn't economical to make only one bag at a time (unless you can procure the materials without paying for them), I would suggest that you try to get some fishing buddies interested in making a surf bag. The more bags being made, the more economical the costs. You mustn't get carried away and make your bag too large since it will become too heavy and/or cumbersome. My bag is approximately 9-1/4" deep x 5-1/4" wide x 10-1/2" long and weighs approximately three pounds with special inserts. It has twelve separate compartments for lures and a large pocket for wire leaders, pliers, etc. In order to carry small plugs like the 4" and 5" Redfins or Rebels in this bag, a couple of special removable plastic inserts were made which raise the lures near to the top of the liner, making the small lures easily accessible. (Full details of construction are given further on in this article.) These inserts have a hollow area in them where a snagging rig is kept in one insert and a couple of hooks and sinker in another. The shoulder strap is made from a 1-7/8" wide **soft** nylon belting very similar to that used on some auto seat belts. I purchased mine from "Herman's Sporting Goods" (Smithtown store), in the mountain climbing department. The material I used for my present liner is plastic window safety glaze .080" thick. Although this is very serviceable, it does chip at times around the top open outside edges due to being banged when handled carelessly or when falling off a rock or jetty and accidentally banging the bag. The solution to this is to make the liner out of a material called "Lexan," which is the polycarbonate material baseballs are thrown at on that TV commercial. Naturally this material is a little more expensive, as is the cement, but it should last a lifetime. I didn't use "Lexan" on my liner because I wanted to make a liner and live with it to see if its size and design needed improvement for my needs, but the next liner I make will be made of "Lexan." If you elect to make your liner using the .080" thick window safety glaze as I did, I suggest that you go around to a few hardware stores that sell the glaze material and see if they have any damaged material, cut-off ends, or scraps that could be utilized for your liner. It would be much cheaper than buying one large piece. Be careful that all the scraps are the same thickness; if they are not, it will change the sizes of the pieces needed to fabricate the liner as described later in this article.

The first item to be made is the liner. There are 11 pieces to be cut to the appropriate sizes, as listed in the "Bill of Materials," to make the liner itself and another six pieces to make each insert needed to raise small plugs near to the top of the liner. The compartments are made by taking **five** pieces (4-53/64" wide x 9" long) and cutting a slot as wide as the thickness of the material as shown in Fig. 2.

Next, the long center divider (9" wide x 10-5/16" long) needs five equally spaced slots as shown in Fig. 3. The five



partitions are assembled together by interlocking them into the five slots in the center divider. Assemble these partitions one at a time, gluing into place so that the bottoms are flush and the partitions are square to the center divider. There are two different cements available for the acrylic window safety glaze. One is Plexite #1 (Methylene Chloride) which has the consistency of water and it softens the plastic to weld the pieces being glued together. This cement is applied with a squeeze bottle that has a needle point. It will be necessary to extend the needle point with a fine piece of metal tubing that can be purchased in a good hobby shop. **If this cement is used, everything must fit perfectly. All edges must be straight, flat and square.** Any spaces that may exist between parts will not be glued together properly, thus resulting in a very weak joint. This cement may also be applied by using a shallow pan large enough to take the largest piece and placing 1/16" maximum of cement in it.

Hold the edge of the piece being glued in the cement for approximately 20 seconds, then carefully place in position on the other piece with a little hand pressure, making sure it's being held square. Hold in position for a couple of minutes.

The other cement that is available is Plexite #2, which I believe is also Methylene Chloride, but it has dissolved plastic in it to make it more viscous, like syrup. This thicker cement will take care of any irregularities and will produce stronger joints because it leaves a little fillet build-up in the corners. Plexite #2 can be applied with squeeze bottle or by brush. This cement takes approximately one hour to dry or harden.

If "Lexan" material is used for liner, you will need to use a special cement called "Lexgrip" which is a little expensive ($6.70 for one pint). It takes one hour to dry. The cements and plastic can be purchased at any plastic supply house, such as Commercial Plastics in Farmingdale, L.I.

I suggest that you try using the cement on some scrap plastic pieces before you try cementing the liner together. By doing this, you will become familiar with the different ways of handling the cement and make your mistakes on the scrap instead of on the liner itself. When making the compartment divider assembly, make sure that all the partitions are all the same size, equally spaced and are cemented square and flush with the bottom. This is important because when you get to make the inserts you want them to fit in all the compartments. It would help, in the gluing, if you cut 12 blocks of wood that are the width of each compartment. This will help to keep the correct spacing. Plane large chamfers on all corners of the blocks so these areas don't interfere with the drying cement joint.

When doing all the cementing, I used a heavy piece of glass from an old desk top to provide a flat, smooth working surface that will not allow cement to stick to it. This isn't necessary, but makes it a little easier to work. Next, the front, back and both ends are cemented around the compartment assembly, flush with the bottom. The last piece to be glued into place is the bottom, but first we must provide a way for water to drain out of the liner. What I did was carefully drill five 1/2" diameter holes at the exact intersection of the partitioned sections, as shown in Fig. 4. Each hole will let water drain out of four sections, but won't allow hooks to get caught. Another way of providing drainage is to drill a lot of 1/8" diameter holes all over the bottom, but I feel that it's too easy to get carried away drilling too many holes and this will weaken the bottom. Before cementing the bottom in place, rub the bottom surface of the liner on a sheet of medium grit sandpaper to provide a flat surface to cement the bottom piece to. After cementing the bottom into place and allowing sufficient time to dry, take a hand file and remove all the sharp edges so that all the edges have a nice smooth radius which won't cut into the bag or cut your fingers on the top edges of the compartments when taking the lures out of the bag. Make two or three special riser inserts as shown in Fig. 5.

EDITOR' NOTE:
Construction Diagrams Will Appear in Part II

Why your line should glow when you're fishing for bluefish.

The better you see your line, the better you can control it. When you have to cast quickly to a school of marauding bluefish, good line control will get your plug right into the thick of them. You can guide your lure more accurately in heavy surf and around jetties or rocks. And when you're trolling or fighting a blue from a boat, being able to see your line is the easiest way to avoid getting tangled in other lines.

That's why Du Pont invented the line that glows.

To give you better control, Du Pont invented *Stren*® fluorescent monofilament. The patented glow of *Stren* is actually in the line. It's activated by the sun's ultraviolet rays. From dawn to dusk. Even on cloudy days. Underwater, where UV is filtered out, the glow is deactivated.

You need a choice of colors.

Stren comes in different colors to suit different fishing conditions. Clear/Blue glows a soft blue; fine for most fishing against dark water and foliage. Golden *Stren* has even greater visibility for bright days or cluttered backgrounds. And high contrast Orange really "pops," even against the glare of big water and bright skies.

There's more to Stren than meets the eye.

Du Pont research has given *Stren* the right balance of properties you need. Superior knot strength—frequently up to 100% as strong as unknotted line. Great tensile strength with small diameter. Proper limpness for easier handling and casting. Tough abrasion and shock resistance. And controlled stretch to set your hook fast.

Try a spool of *Stren*. You can see it, you can control it. And control catches more fish than luck.

The line you see is the line you control.

Positioning for the Conventional Rod & Reel

Capt. John De Maio

Proper use of the conventional rod and reel is essential for the desired effect of your lure when in a non-trolling situation. Now that seems very basic and generally agreed upon. And yet, by my observations, it is most difficult for the average fisherman to execute. Several reasons are the cause of the problem. One, someone who is used to fishing with bait only lacks the knowledge and understanding for working a lure. This would also include the lack of experience. Two, not being familiar with the lure you are using. Three, the inability to handle your tackle correctly. The third and last problem is perhaps the greatest and most difficult to overcome. Not only must the angler learn the rudiments of tackle control first, he must follow with lure control second. And all this in a six-hour charter trip.

Times will arise, during the course of a season, when the ability of the fishing party will influence the Captain's decision on where and how to fish, if he has the options to begin with. Even though the crew may be eager to educate those anglers who need assistance, time may not allow it. Many times I have started the day by finding the fish willing on arrival. This is not a preference when I have a new party on board. What I like is a chance to coach the angler beforehand. This betters his ability to catch. Most often the first trip is spent learning the style and technique I require. After taking a few fish, the fisherman starts developing line control. The idea of what is going on around him takes hold, and a certain measure of the needed confidence in his ability is now showing. Sounds good! Then how come on some days, the stern of my boat looks like the fishing scene from the movie, "One flew over the Cuckoos' Nest?" The reason is some people never learn. Others are naturals. Just like when you played ball as a kid: some guys had it, and some carried the bat. (I wonder what Ted Williams can do with a jig?)

What follows is what I believe to be the primary positions for the use of the rod and reel. I will relate these positions to working a diamond jig. The jig is most demanding on correct tackle usage. Failure to function the line correctly above the water results in a dead lure under water. Abnormal dexterity is not a prerequisite for this function. Your normal operative human will do. Of course, you spin fans might be considered handicapped.

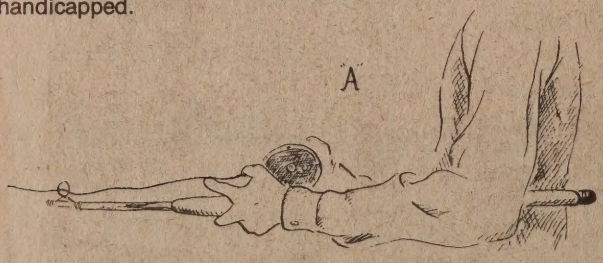


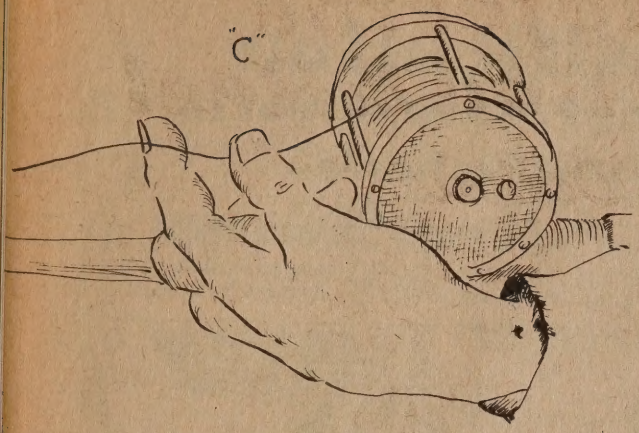
Diagram A shows the correct position for holding the rod. Under your LEFT arm. Not the right! This is the most common error I have found. People who have been fishing for years still place the rod butt under their right arm. I am told that they find it "more comfortable" under the right arm. Certainly so. After so many years of doing it their way, the change seems awkward. Compare it to batting cross-handed. No matter how relaxed it may feel to you, it is still wrong. This doesn't mean that you cannot fish effectively under the right arm. I know a great many who fish for a living and handle their tackle as pictured in Diagram B. As you can see, the angler usually ends up with the rod extended sideways. You should always place your rod into the direction of the line. Notice the awkward positioning of the right elbow. One would think his arm is in a cast.

Now look closely at Diagram C. You will see the ideal positioning of the left hand. The hand should remain in this position at all times, regardless of the line function. Letting line out. Retrieving line. Reeling in a fish, and waiting for a bite. With the thumb and index finger in this position, you can develop the necessary FEEL I often speak of. The placing of those two fingers is the essential step in successful use of the conventional rod and reel. I simply cannot stress enough the importance of the thumb and index finger placed in this manner.

The remaining fingers—fore, ring, and pinky—have ample strength for holding the rod. This is due to the position of the heel of the hand upon the reel. The curving side plate should rest snugly into the heel of the hand. This stops the rod from twisting when retrieving. If you do not brace the reel, you are forced to hold onto the rod grip in a vise-like manner. This takes a good deal of strength resulting in early fatigue. The angler will find himself tiring quickly and still unable to prevent the rod from twisting. On all my active reels, the handles are replaced at least once during the season due to rod twisting. It creates a hardship on both angler and tackle. Overcome it. When first handed my rifle at Fort Dix, during basic training, it was foreign to me. I was a little gun shy. Within a month I could snap through the manual of arms smartly and pick off those rounds as smooth as silk. Constant exposure and practice made it possible. So it is with the rod. You eventually will not have to think "B.R.A.S.S." before sending a round down-range. It will come naturally. Your left hand will become a cradle for the rod and reel to lay in. It will no longer require concentration to perform the basic movements. Save the concentration for the feel.

In Diagram D, you see what I believe to be the best placement for the fingers for letting out line when diamond jigging. Because of the vital need for instant reaction when the jig hits the bottom, this position has proven the best for me. As stated, the left hand remains in the same position. With the line passing out between the thumb and index finger, you will have the FEEL of the lure weight thus enabling you to feel the jig reach the bottom. Equally important will be your ability to now feel the tension on the line created by the drag of the lure. This should give you a better understanding of what your lure is doing and at what depth. Another plus factor for this position, even when letting line out, is that you better your chances of feeling a fish pick up the sinking lure. Stay with it.

Let us get to that right hand. Notice how the thumb is placed up against the free spool lever. With your thumb in this position, you are able to engage the drag as soon as the lure

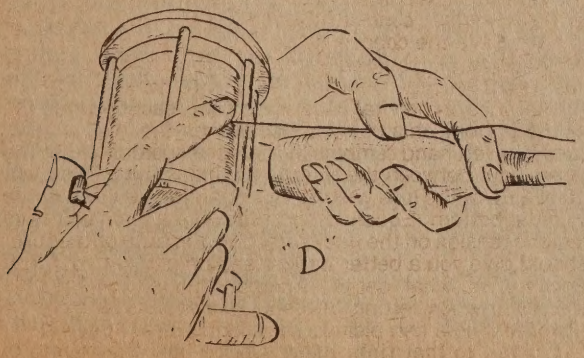


its the bottom, without the need of manipulation of hands. It a smooth, fast procedure without a manual of arms. The idex finger controls the spool. (Your remaining fingers will nd a comfortable place somewhere on the reel frame.) A feel r the pressure needed in controlling the line, rapidly leaving ne spool, by the index finger will require practice. Allow the g to sink as fast as possible without creating an override backlash) on the spool. Good control of the lure as it descends the basic beginning for proper diamond jigging. A speedy esponse when the lure bounces off the bottom will show esults at the end of the day. At the same time your thumb is rowing the free spool lever, the index finger is clamping own on the spool. This gives you double the braking power. he finger will react quicker than the thumb, as you will find ut. After you have engaged the reel, your right hand moves the handle to retrieve the line. Your left hand remains the ame.

Changing position from time to time is a must. The nuscles should be allowed to relax. Don't go about the day as the rod was glued into position. That reminds me of some oker I knew that always had a can of beer in his right hand henever I would see him. His name was Patrick omething-or-other. I began to believe surgery was necessary. atty ended up in a terrible auto accident. It must be difficult ying to steer a car with a can of beer permanently adhered to our right hand.

The hand and finger positions vary when sinker bouncing. ut that will require more photos to explain and I would have keep repeating the word "position." I am tired of writing position" and growing bored with this article. I'm sure you ust be bored also. Position, position, my God, what a long inter this is!

"And in conclusion," (oh good, we can all go home soon) would like to add that the fishing rod is an instrument to the sherman. It should respond to his command smoothly and recisely. A well balanced rod and reel, one suitable to how nd what you're fishing, will help make it easier to play. The ght tool for the right job. And practice, practice, and more ractice. (Oh no, I'm doing it again.) That is it!



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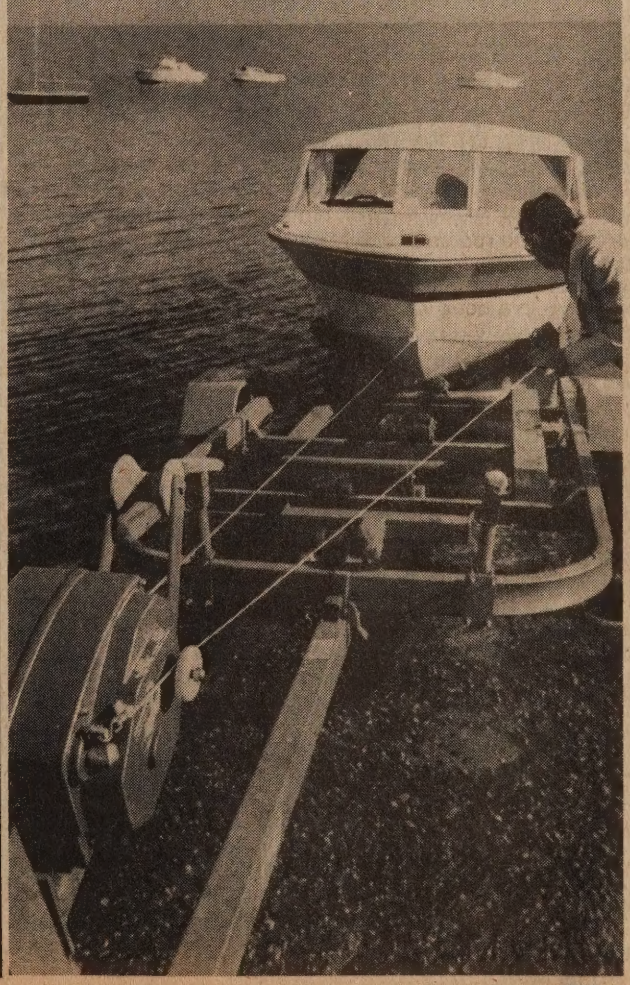
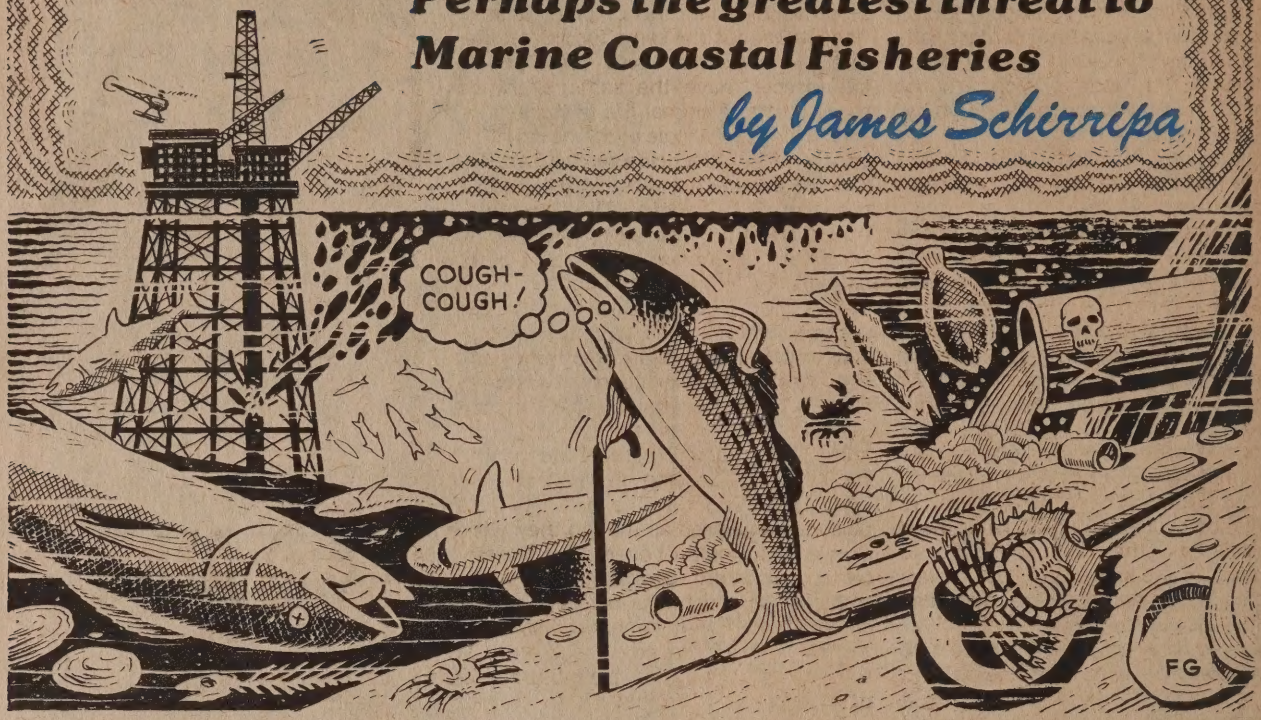


Chemical Toxification

Perhaps the greatest threat to Marine Coastal Fisheries

by James Schirripa



Over millions of years the animals living in the sea evolved. These slow, very slow changes were caused by many things in the animals' world. The need to survive was the major drive for these changes, and so when a part of the environment changed, and that change threatened their survival, the animals changed.

The tremendous variety of shapes, and forms of animal and plant life in the sea is a testimony to the vitality of natures experiments in survival. These experiments need time to be worked out. If a change comes so rapidly that the plants and animals can not change, they are doomed to extinction.

During the past five thousand years one of the animals that inhabits the earth has been responsible for changes that happen so swiftly it is difficult for most animals to adapt to them. Man is this animal, and if he is nothing else he is the agent of rapid change. In his days man has assaulted the animals of the sea with every imaginable device: Harpoons, nets, gunpowder, even clubs, and stones. Responding to these agents of change many animals departed never to be seen again. These actions of man had a purpose. In order to feed, clothe, and shelter himself it was necessary for man to make use of the things nature put at his disposal. Now, man no longer uses the things nature gave him, he makes his own weapons. The most powerful of these are the chemicals that he uses.

It becomes concentrated enough to kill one of the animals in the food chain. When the chemical finally kills an animal, it doesn't disappear! The dead animal with the chemical still in it is then eaten by scavengers and the chemical enters a new food chain. Sometimes a chemical is so powerful that it can kill animals at any level of the food chain. If this happens all of the other animals in the food chain will suffer. Without one of these vital steps, to which the animal has adapted, it is doomed to death. Animals and plants in the sea have very specialized eating habits. If their normal food supply is destroyed they can't go out and get another.

Many of the chemicals man has made have not been in the natural environment before he has synthesized them. They are so completely new to the plants and animals of the sea that they have a difficult time adapting to them. Even if a chemical doesn't kill an animal or a plant outright it can have many effects that will reduce their ability to survive. The chemical may interfere with the animals nervous system for example, reduce it's ability to remove oxygen from the water, disrupt it's reproduction cycle, or have any number of other equally bad effects.

Let's look at some of the chemicals that are important as pollutants of the sea.

1. Metals. Mercury: Mercury is the only liquid metal. Since ancient times it has fascinated man, and many strange properties were attributed to it. It was thought that gold, silver, copper, and lead were only mixtures of mercury and sulphur. It was thought of as "magic" and many people wore vials filled with mercury to ward off the evils of illness. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was used to cure syphilis. Many people died of the cure! The toxic effects of mercury have been known for a long time. Spanish men who worked in the mercury mines for more than two years were exempted from military service. Mercury poisoning in extreme cases looks much like insanity. One of the most famous story book characters suffered from mercury poisoning. He is the "Mad Hatter" of Alice In Wonderland. Mercury salts were used in the making of felt which in turn was used to make hats in the 18th century. Hatters (those who made hats) would go "insane" after several years of work, hence the "Mad Hatter."

Today mercury is found in many places and in many products used in the home and in industry. It's used in instruments such as thermometers, barometers, and some thermostats. It is also used to make medicines and dyes. Tons of mercury get into the air when coal and oil are burned on a large scale. This airborne mercury is washed out of the air by rain and finds its way into the sea

with the rain running off the land.

Mercury as a pure metal rarely causes a problem for the plants and animals of the sea. But then again, mercury as a pure metal is rarely found in the sea. The compounds of mercury (combinations of mercury, carbon, and hydrogen) known as organic compounds and mercury salts (combinations of mercury and chlorine, bromine, sulfur, iodine, etc.) are the chemicals that cause the major difficulty. These chemicals are so toxic that less than one part of the chemical in a million parts of sea water will kill half of all fish in that water in 96 hours.

Concentrations in the range of one part in a billion parts of water can cause serious effects on feeding, mating, and migration. There are other metals of importance that find their way into the sea. They are less well known and somewhat less toxic than mercury. They do, however, contribute to the overall problem of survival for plants and animals of the sea. Among these are cadmium, nickel, antimony, chromium, and berylium. There is not much information available on just what these chemicals do to the sea life. It is fair to say that since we know that these metals are toxic to man and other animals, they are also toxic to sea life.

2. Biocides: Man, in his attempts to grow more crops, eradicate disease, and make life more comfortable for himself has engaged in total warfare against many of the plants and animals that inhabit the earth with him. In most cases this warfare is totally justified and reasonable. His arsenal has been the powerful chemicals developed for one purpose, to kill other living things. Without these biocides man's life on earth would be squalid and primitive. His major enemy has been the mosquito. This little insect has been responsible for the deaths of more human beings than all of the wars, famines, and natural disasters combined since the beginning of time.

DDT, a potent chemical developed to kill the mosquito, must rank as one of the all-time saviors of mankind, and yet it is unacceptable for use today. The hordes of insects that devour man's food, destroy forests, infect his animals, and attack his buildings are also enemies in this war. Man uses biocides on the plants that compete with his crops (weeds) and on the molds and mildews that destroy many of his creations. In all of these, activities have been justified to some extent. The horror of the activities is that there have been casualties among the innocent by-standers of the sea.

These biocides, known as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, are pretty effective and powerful chemicals. They were developed to kill plants and animals. They do their work by being taken into the organism and then disrupting some normal chemical activity that the organism needs to live. Once this chemical activity stops the plant or animal dies. When the chemical does this to a weed, for example, it is good, but when it does it to algae in the sea, it is bad. These chemicals are rarely selective in what kind of plant it kills. The situation is the same for animal life. The chemicals that were developed to kill insects, have the same effect on many forms of animal life in the sea.

One recent example of the devastating effect that an insecticide can have on fish and other aquatic life forms is the situation with Kepone. This illustrates how a chemical that was developed to control an insect can effect most other animals including man himself. The waters of the James River in Virginia became contaminated with the insecticide Kepone. As a result, the fin-fish and shell-fish in the river became contaminated also. The chemical works on the nervous system of animals and the animals that come in contact and absorb the chemical become ill. In man the effects were striking. The men who were poisoned appeared as though they were drunk. They couldn't even drive a screw or tighten a nut because their hands trembled so much. As a result of this contamination all commercial fishing in the river was stopped. The river was considered to be the best shad and oyster waters in Virginia.

Traces of the chemical were found in rockfish and bluefish in the Chesapeake Bay. Thousands of people who depended on the shad and shellfish for their living were deprived of their livelihood. The health of humans was at stake in this case, and not that of the fish alone. The situation illustrates how chemical pollution eventually comes around full circle. Starting with "man the chemical agressor" to "man the chemical victim".

A case closer to home that didn't involve a biocide, but did have a great effect on the aquatic and human life in the area is the case of polychlorinated bipyenyls or PCBs. These chemicals are used in high voltage electrical items as an insulating oil. One particular factory on the Hudson River was a primary user of PCBs. As often happens the chemical found it's way into the river and of course into the fish and other aquatic life of the river. Striped bass and other important fishes have shown high levels of the chemical in their tissues.

Chemicals are here to stay. Man's modern life depends on them. The question is, "How do we continue to use them without destroying the 'innocent by-standers of the sea,' and eventually destroying man.?"

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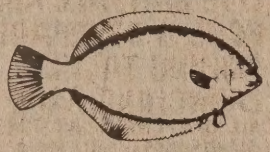

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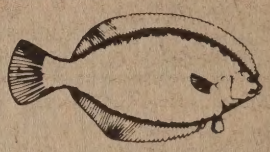

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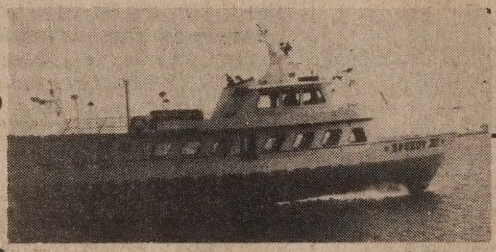

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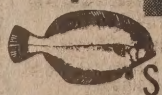

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that the codfishing on Saturday was very good but only fair on Sunday due to the wind. On Saturday Ed Gelbstean of Howard Beach took first place in the pool with a 48 lb. cod and Lou Santo of N.J. copped 2nd place with a 45 lb. cod. Ed G. had 8 other cod including the pooler and all aboard had fish in the 12 to 15 lb. average. Best area is still the waters southeast of Block Island. The Captain said that he will be running special flounder fishing trips during Easter week, starting Wednesday April 6th through April 15th. The **Viking Starlite** will sail at 10 A.M. daily for big flounder and the $10 fare includes all bait and tackle. Paul noted that there are still a few openings left on the April 10th Nantucket Wreck Trip. Call for further information.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported having a bonanza of sorts with the codfish on Wednesday. 20 men had 100 codfish up to 46 pounds and the average fish was 12 to 15 pounds. Ed Thompson of Riverhead was high hook with 15 cod, but listen to this—He took the pool with a 46 pounder and 5 of his total catch were over the 40 lb. mark. The Captain said that this definitely looks like the beginning of the spring run of cod.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported that the set lines are still out fishing the rod and reelers both in quantity and in size. The charter being made by the crew at the Long Island Fisherman was postphoned from last Thursday to this Wednesday and will be reported on next week.

PROMISED LAND

Promised Land Fishing Station reports that some fish are being taken inside Nappeague Harbor from ½ to ¾ pounds and that things are starting to shape up now for the season. Art Brand says that the season should break wide open very soon and that Gardiner's Bay flounder will soon biting your hooks in half. Mussel baits are the things now with plenty of mussel chum.

EAST HAMPTON

Mrs. Cox from this fishing station in East Hampton tells us that the week had great flounder fishing with most fish ranging from 1 to 2 pounds. "The bottom is wall to wall fish with few throwbacks", said Mrs. Cox. Anglers are averaging 20 fish per man. Mussels, corn and clam are being used as bait and mussel chum should be used liberally. The best flounder fishing in years, she said.

SHINNECOCK

Charterboat **Blue Baron** called to say that he is out of the shipyard and will begin April 15th with flounder charters and that he will be making a few "recon trip" for snowshoes.

Captain Clark Bellows Jr. of the **Captain Clark Fleet** reported a very good week with the flounder with the exception of Friday and Sunday when the fishing was slow due to the wind. On Saturday 28 fares had close to 200 flounder in the 1¼ to 1¾ lb. range. Jimmy Johnson of Hampton Bays was hi-hook with 21 fish. The Captain said that the key to success has been the quarter-deck snails that are occasionally snagged being used for bait, which the flounder seem to prefer over everything else

offered, probably because it is a natural part of their diet. Best area has been near buoy 8 off Jamesport.

HAMPTON BAYS

Frank's Fishing Station reports that the flounder fishing is not so good because of the weather conditions. Flounder up to 1¾ pounds can be taken at buoys 5 and 11 on bloodworms and by chumming with mussels.

Mike Giovingo at **Skipper's Fishing Station** reported that not many boats sailed on the windy weekend but those that did had 25 to 30 nice flounder a boat. Richard Gelepeter of the Bronx took 30 flounder up to 2½ pounds by himself one day. Plenty of mussel chum is the key. Mike said that he is now booking "Fisherman Weekends" which is a boat and motor for two days and up to 3 men in a motel room for 2 nights, the whole package all for $70. Mike noted that the station also has special club packages for up to 100 people. Give him a call for further details.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports that flounders up to 1¾ pounds are being taken to some extent and that you have to really work the bottom and stir it up a lot or chum very heavily. Dennis says the fish are nice size and fat. Best areas are off Green Point, Heckscher 4 and 5 and the fish are hitting dyed skimmers and worms. Chumming with mussels or corn is a must.

MORICHES BAY

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station called in to say that on Saturday morning he had quite a few boats out until the bad weather hit. The flounder are further east then at this time in the last several years. Most fish are being taken at buoy 56 on bloodworms and by using mussels or corn for chum. There were no fish over 2 pounds to come in to the fishing station, but all of the flounder taken are up to 2 pounds. Richie said that if we have some nice weather the flounder will move west to buoy 42.

Tadsen's Fishing Station reports the flounder fishing is poor but some fish are being taken at the West Hampton Bridge up to 1½ pounds on worms. The fishing is slow and chumming is important, but if the weather conditions pick up the flounder fishing will break loose very rapidly.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that on Saturday he had some boats out before the winds picked up. Flounder up to 2 pounds are being taken at buoy 43. The flounder are taking worms or mussels and chumming with mussels is a must.

Silly Lily Fishing Station tells us that the flounder fishing is fairly good at buoys 48 to 52, with fish up to 1d¾ pounds being taken on worms. Again, chumming with mussels is a definite must.

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CAPT. AL
FREEPORT'S LARGEST, FASTEST
MOST MODERN ALL STEEL
PARTY BOAT WITH 33 YEARS
EXPERIENCE AT THE HELM
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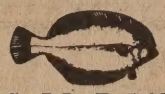
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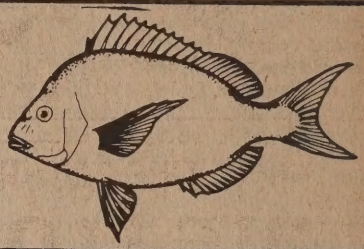

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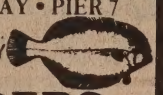
Capt. Butch (212) 375-2892 After 6PM

SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7
PILOT II
6 A.M. DAILY



65' Twin Diesel
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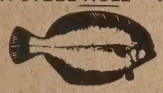
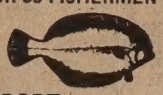

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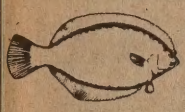
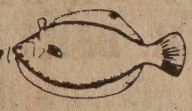
FIRST TRIP SATURDAY APRIL 2, 1977

BIG FLOUNDERS



BRAND X 8A.M. DAILY



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CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** told us that he is going to make a Special Tilefishing trip leaving from Captree at Midnight on Friday night, April 15th, returning Saturday around 6:30 in the evening. Anglers aboard will have a solid 5 or 6 hours of tilefishing in the Hudson Canyon, and depending on the response the captain said he may run as many as 2 tilefishing trips a week sometime in the future. The trip is limited to 50 anglers and the fare is $45 a head. A deposit is required so call 516 661-1652 to make your reservations.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** reported that the flounder fishing has been poor to fair considering the weather. Record to date is 35 flounder in the snow on March 20th, 15 flounder in 50 mph winds last Thursday and on Saturday 96 flounder were taken in the rain. All the fish are huge and average close to 1½ pounds and the pool on Saturday was 2 pounds 7 ounces.

Neil said that this is the biggest run of flounder Captree has ever seen, although there is not too much in quantity. The captain also noted that last year on April 28th, the boat made the first catch of fluke, 175, around the Robert Moses Bridge, which is just around the corner in a few weeks.

The Captain Ben Litwin reported that all of the fish being taken are big but there are just not enough of them. All the wind we've been having hasn't been helping much either.

The **Captain Richie** had 85 flounder for 30 people on Saturday, most of which were taken around the change of tide off of Pt. of Woods. Flounder are predominantly large but mixed sizes are now being seen.

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** reported that all 3 boats are now sailing at 7 A.M. and 8 A.M. daily for flounder and are hoping for a good season.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle had limited reports due to the weather this past week but did say that some flounder were taken off Sailor's Haven and a few at the Heckscher flats.

BABYLON

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** tells us that on Tuesday nine flounder were taken in one skiff out in front of the Babylon Pool on worm and mussel baits with abundant mussel chum.

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that on Sunday Ray Wittman and buddies Gary, Phil and Dennis fishing on Ray's "Nite Owl" had 20 flounder fishing west island. Fish were up to 1 lb. 10 oz. and were hitting worm mussel combos. Mussel or clam chum was the requirement. On Saturday the private boat "Leak or Two" had 12 flounder, all over 1 pound going up to 1 lb. 11 oz. on worm and clam chum. Best was three hours on both sides of the high.

LINDENHURST

John at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** informs us that Tony the Shoemaker helped Joey G. to nab a four pound brown trout and a 2½ lb. rainbow at some local fresh water puddle. Dick Kissell took 10 rainbow trout up to 10 inches at Carls River on Friday, opening day of the freshwater season, in a half hour. On Saturday John says plenty of

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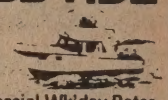

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Captain Frank Maccaro 516-929-4881

good sized flounder were caught locally, as evidenced by Lindenhurst angler Frank Said with his 32 flatties taken south of Good Sam Hospital on blood and mussel chum in the morning. John says there are plenty of flounder around, all you have to do is go out and catch them.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports flounder fishing was good, considering the rotten weather. One day during the week three anglers had over 100 flatties, ¾ to 1½ pounds fishing Nassau Shores (Unqua Pt.) with bloodworms, mussels and heavy on the chum. Also, a 3 and 5 lb. trout were taken on nightcrawlers by one sweet water addict, area unknown.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us flounder fishing was pretty good this weekend in spite of the lousy weather,

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with Sunday being the better day. Fort Neck Pt. on the west side, Brick House Cove, Unqua Pt. and West Island produced best. Mussels or worms on the hook and mussel chum was the ticket. Fish went from ¾ to 2 pounds. Second best was East—West Channel and Amityville Channel. George says that he has live killies and nightcrawlers for trout fishermen.

MASSAPEQUA

Joel at **Massapequa Tackle and Sports** reports good flounder fishing, up to 25 flounder per boat, from ½ to 1¾ lbs. on clam and worm baits. Last of incoming and the first of the ebb are working best, best areas being Florence Beach, Alhambra Beach, Massapequa Cove, and the east side of Squaw Island.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station says there is just too much wind. All of his skiffs are catching fish of respectable size but the quantity is not there yet. When the wind dies for a few days things should build very quickly. Right now, best bet is the Massapequa shoreline, Four Corners and Squaw Island with bloodworms and plenty of chum.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** reports a generally poor weekend due to the roiled water and weedy conditions. A few good sized flounder were caught but not many. The bay is loaded with bait, particularly grass shrimp and killies. Good weather should increase catches significantly.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Capt. Al says that although the weather was not conducive to good fishing, he did have some flounder for fares in spite of the rain and wind. Friday was a big improvement on the week. Fish were picked on Saturday prior to the rain and a few fish were taken on each drop. Al says that once we get a couple or three days of decent weather, the flounder fishing will be very good.

The Starstream II is back in action with a fresh paint job and mechanically A-1 for the season. Richie Kessinger on Saturday went after whiting for 17 fares. Hi-hook was 25 whiting and he says you had to work for the fish. Many fares remained in the cabin due to the rain. The area fished was the BA buoy area. Richie says he is hoping for mackerel soon and once they are discovered he will stay with them for his mackerel loving customers. Richie says he will also be seeking out the blacks at the local wrecks.

The **Captain Lou II** tells us that the flounder are big, though not too plentiful. He says that they are not very active now due to the wind and roiled bottom, but that a couple of days of good weather would set things straight.

The **Lucky Strike III** went flounder

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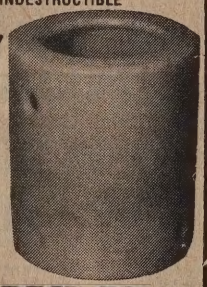

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fishing in Saturday's rain and found the action spotty in the Freeport area, but did manage to pick some fish at Swift Creek and Broad Creek. However, fish were good sized and a few were taken on each drop. Fish ran ¾ to 1¼ pounds.

Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport** had his first charter of the season out on Saturday. This was a group of marines from the Garden City base, arranged by Sgt. Manning. The flounder fishing was fair, and all activity was in the Freeport area. Tony said it could have been better and probably will be with a little help from the weather.

The openboat **Captain Hall** fished Squaw Island this weekend with fair results in spite of the unfavorable weather and sea conditions. Fish ranged from 1 to 1½ pounds on bloodworms and mussels. Chumming must be done.

Anthony's Fishing Station says that a few nice sized flounders were brought in during the week and weekend, though the quantity is lacking. Best catches were from Swift Creek and Merrick Bay and the high flats drain area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that he had half of his boats out on Saturday and Sunday and all did fair to good. Most of the fishing was done in Reynolds Channel at the Loop Bridge and buoys 16 and 18. The catch consisted of 3-4 dozen flounder per boat up to a 1½ pounds. Worms were the bait used and chumming with mussels will better the catch.

ISLAND PARK

Bill of the **Ginnie Mae** reports that he had a good flounder trip on Sunday, fishing Bay Park and the oyster beds off Long Beach and took some big flounder. It was a fair showing, said Bill, and there were 4 double headers which is indicative of vast improvement in the flounder fishing. Fish ranged up to 1½ pounds on worms, clam and mussel and mussel chum.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reported that the flounder fishing is good all over Jamaica Bay, especially the North and South Channel Bridges and Silver Hole. These flatties are being caught up to 2 pounds and worms are the bait. If you are chumming you can either use mussel or pound the bottom to stir it up.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Larry of the **Eagle** reports that his last tilefishing trip was great, and that over 300 tilefish up to 46 pounds came over the rail. Larry says he is scheduling another tilefishing trip for the night of May 20th and plans to have other trips on every June weekend. You can call him for details. He tells us that the daily whiting fishing is good between the BA and the Greek Wreck with a few ling mixed in. The fish are good sized. Friday was very good with a five gallon pail full for most men. Sunday was only

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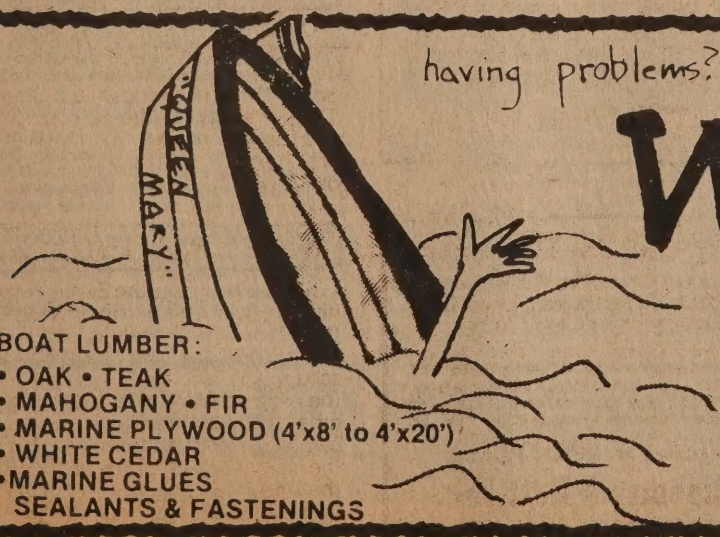

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30' Lures 1961 Palmer 1970, 225 h.p. depth recorder, AM/CB stereo, tuna tower, two gin poles, fighting chair, dinette, outriggers, rod holders. Bought new boat. $3500 or best offer. 516-288-2476.

1973 21' LARSON BARON 165 OMC I/O, cuddy cabin, porta-head, all gauges, depth finder, compass, VHF, full canvas, tandem galvanized trailer with power winch. Many extras. Excellent condition. $4900. 516-589-5674.

40' Navy launch converted to fishing boat, painted mahogany cabin, flying bridge, all bronze fittings, newly painted, diesel tanks, without engine, in water West Islip, $2500. 516-661-5089.

1973, 25' Luhrs Sportfisherman, purchased new in 1974. Chrysler 225 FWC, flybridge, compass, D/F, head, galley, auto bilge pump, ice box, sleeps four. Full canvas. Hardly used. $9000. 516-997-7162.

1973 20' Center console, 1974 115 h.p. Evinrude (low hours) 1975 Mercury Kicker (1 hour) outriggers, compass, rod holders and racks, A/M bilge pump, etc. All excellent. $3900. Less Kicker $3700. FIRM. 286-3578

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20', 1972 Omega Fiberglas, 155 h.p., I/O, cuddy cabin, head, W/Thru windshield, sliding hatch, sleeper/seats, 50 gal. tank, covers, anchor, auto bilge, blower, W/Wiper, etc. $3100. 516-473-8374.

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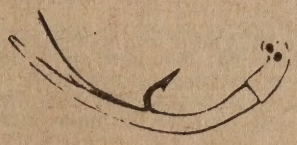

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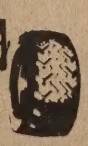

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fair due to sea conditions.

Capt. Tony of the **Big Mohawk II** called to ask us to remind you that he will be sailing open on Good Friday.

Capt. Nick on the **Blue Sea III** tells us that the whiting fishing has been very good lately and that he is working the area from Ambrose to the BA. Some days are better than others, however, with fish running from ½ pound up to 2 pounds. Saturday's results were very good even in the rain and also during Sunday's wind. Nick anchors up and makes a couple or three drops a day. He says that he reads the fish stacked up on the machine.

The **Dorothy B** tells us that Sunday's flounder fishing was good, fishing the Silver Hole area of Jamaica Bay. The pool fish went 3 pounds, with an average of 8 fish per man. Kevin says catches are good and with good weather should improve even more. The average fish is a pound and there are few throwbacks. On Saturday he fished the Navesink with a fair catch of smaller fish. Friday was another good catch day at Silver Hole with three anglers filling up a half of a GI can. This was a day of ideal conditions and sandworms and mussel baits did the trick. Chumming made no difference.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** reported flounder fishing is fair in Orchard Beach, Harts' Island and off New Rochelle. The City Island boats are taking good numbers of fish over in Oyster Bay. No bass reported yet. Jack said that usually by the middle of March the first bass has been caught in Little Neck Bay, but such hasn't been the case so far this season. We need warmer weather, not like last Saturday's cold and rain.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

Port of Egypt reported flounder fishing getting underway nicely, with some bigger fish now being taken outside the creeks. If you want some of these bigger flats try east of the Greenport Breakwater, Smith's Cove and Coecles Harbor. Some of the Creeks still have fish in them but they are smaller fish. Goose and Town Creeks would be two good bets for creek fishing.

GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reported both the **Wilheric** and the **Striper** had good days last week. One day the Wilheric had a few people but still came up with 100 fish, all flounders. They're starting to get some fish in a little more open water around Coecles Harbor and Smith Cove. Up around Jamesport the fish seem to be on the smalll side compared with those two places. No reports from the outside just yet but the draggers are getting flats out there.

The **Wilhelric** reports that the flounder action has been fairly good and that on Wednesday, 12 fares took 85 keeper flounders. Saturday saw poor conditions but 90 fish were taken in the morning for 21 passengers. On Sunday 6 fares had 67 flounder. Stan Garbowski and Ron Dansing had 35 fish between them. Best action was in Cockel's Harbor on sandworms and mussel baits. The fish were hitting all day. Chumming is suggested.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported good flounder action around buoy 9. The fish are running from ¾ lb. and up. One man weighed in a 2½ pounder last week. Mussels or worms are preferred baits and chumming is a must for decent catches.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said the flounder fishing is a little better. Fellows fishing inside the harbor near Duck Island or the Vanderbilt Hanger are taking fair amounts of smaller fish. No boats are yet trying out in the sound though surfcasters fishing off Sand Island or Ashroken Beach are getting a

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EDITORIAL (Continued from page 4.)

thought—there couldn't be THAT many! Had we uncovered something here? I called publisher Rich Reina into the office and filled him in on what was happening. Within a minute or so, the entire L.I.F. staff was standing around the phone with bated breath for the answer. Another minute goes by...finally, after being on "hold" for a solid four minutes, the voice from the P&R Office comes back on the line.

P&R Office: "Okay, I got it...one-hundred and sixty-six, not counting the five on Long Island." The gang around the phone broke up when I repeated "One-hundred and sixty-six? Are you sure you didn't count any twice?" P&R Office: "No, you see there are 9 on Lake Champlain, 8 on Lake Ontario, 11 on the St. Lawrence River, 6 on Cayuga Lake, 6 on—" L.I.F. interupts: "Never mind, could you just send me a list? P&R Office: "Okay, I'll drop it in the mail." And it arrived three weeks later.

So now WE have a few questions for a change. To: Governor Hugh Carey; Commissioner Orin Lehman, Parks & Recreation; Commissioner Peter A. Berle, D.E.C. Assemblyman Kidder and Senator Present, who want to impose a salt water license on us because we are spending THEIR money, we pose a simple question.

In light of the fact that over 50% of the boats registered in N.Y. State are owned by Long Island residents...in light of the fact that over 50% of the taxes collected from marine fuel comes from the Long Island area...in light of the fact that there was enough money to build and maintain 171 launch ramp facilities statewide...and in light of the fact that 50% of 171 is 85 ½...WHERE THE HELL IS THE MISSING 80 ½ LAUNCHING RAMPS WE HAVE COMING TO US?

Let's see, we'll put 9 in Great South Bay, 8 in Moriches Bay, 11 on the North Shore, 6 in the Peconics, 6 at Montauk....

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few big flounders. If you want to fish from shore Tom said the Sound spots are better than the town dock where just a few smaller fish were caught. Still some schoolies at the power plant. Two hours before high water was prime time.

Fred from **Chain Locker** took Emil Spong and Assistant New York Jets football coach Dan Henning, both of Northport, out flounder fishing at the hole at Duck Island Harbor. They caught 71 flounder, ranging in size from ¾ to 2 pounds on an incoming tide, using mussels for chum and sandworms and mussels for bait.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that flounder fishing is good to excellent at Lloyd Harbor, Duck Harbor and throughout Northport Bay. These fish are weighing from ½ 1½ pounds and are being taken on sandworms, clams and mussels. Chumming is a must. Larger flounder are being taken at Callahans in the Sound on mussel and mussel chum. Some small bass are being caught at the Lilco outflow on sand and bloodworms.

Skip at **Huntington Prop and Tackle** said that Charles Hasenhor took 85 flounder up to 1¾ pounds on worm and clam bait with mussel chum in a deep hole in the Centerport Harbor area. One angler during the week weighed in 6 bass up to 8 pounds that he took on sandworms in the early A.M. around the Crab Meadow Beach area, NOT in the hot water.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Nae's Way Fishing Station** reported that the flounder are just starting in the Nissequogue River and off Callahan's Beach, with larger fish being taken at the latter. Fish are slow picked through all tides. Chumming with mussels very helpful with sandworms and mussels for bait.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	10:11	10:37	10:49	11:16	10:56	11:17	11:43	—	12:58	1:28	1:06	1:40	10:06	10:30	3/31
FRI	11:09	11:35	11:47	—	11:54	—	12:01	12:40	1:50	2:28	1:59	2:36	11:02	11:28	4/1
SAT	—	12:07	12:14	12:48	12:17	12:54	1:01	1:44	2:49	3:39	2:57	3:36	—	12:02	4/2
SUN	12:34	1:10	1:18	1:58	1:16	1:56	2:07	2:53	4:06	5:14	3:58	4:39	12:29	1:05	4/3
MON	1:36	2:15	2:27	3:09	2:18	2:58	3:18	4:02	5:43	6:32	5:05	5:44	1:34	2:09	4/4
TUE	2:41	3:21	3:37	4:17	3:21	4:01	4:26	5:08	6:59	7:36	6:13	6:47	2:38	3:10	4/5
WED	3:45	4:22	4:42	5:15	4:25	5:00	5:33	6:06	8:02	8:31	7:15	7:46	3:38	4:07	4/6
THUR	4:44	5:15	5:38	6:07	5:23	5:53	6:30	6:54	8:56	9:20	8:13	8:37	4:32	4:58	4/7

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES!

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 06
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:43	6:25
4/6	5:35	6:31
4/11	5:27	6:36
4/16	5:19	6:42
4/21	5:11	6:48
4/26	5:03	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/18	4/26	4/4	4/10

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	1:00	7:35	1:40	8:00
FRI.	1:45	8:20	2:15	8:50
SAT.	2:30	9:10	3:05	9:35
SUN.	3:20	10:00	3:50	10:25
MON.	4:10	10:50	4:40	11:15
TUES.	5:00	11:50	5:30	—
WED.	6:00	12:25	6:35	12:55
THURS.	7:10	1:30	7:40	2:00

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CLINICS ON LONG ISLAND

To be held at Shoreham Wading River High School, Route 25A (⅛ mile east of Wm. Floyd Parkway), Shoreham, New York...from 8 to 10 p.m.

WED. APRIL 20th
Salt Water, In Shore, Fluke, Striped Bass, Flounder, and Weakfish

WED. APRIL 27th
Salt Water, Off Shore, Blues, Tuna, Shark, Cod

CLINICS IN QUEENS:

To be held at Richmond Hill High School, 89-30 114 Street, Richmond Hill, New York...from 8 to 10 p.m.

THURS. APRIL 21st
Salt Water, In Shore, Fluke, Striped Bass, Flounder, and Weakfish

THURS. APRIL 28th
Salt Water, Off Shore, Blues, Tuna, Shark, Cod

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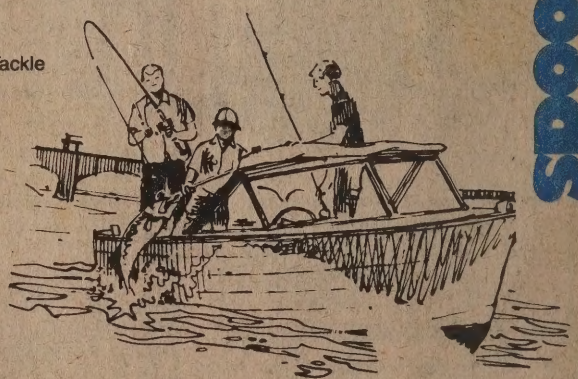

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☐ **APRIL 20th** ☐ **APRIL 27th**

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Address _____
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HERMAN'S/GARCIA QUEENS FISHING CLINICS
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Please send me _____ tickets for.
☐ **APRIL 21st** ☐ **APRIL 28th**

Name _____
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